

San Joaquin Valley Partnership

Board of Directors Meeting

K-12 Education Recap
December 8, 2005

November 28th meeting

Conveners

Alan Autry, Co-Chair and Fresno mayor
Fritz Grupe, Co-Chair and Businessman

Special Guests

Alan Bersin, Secretary of Education
Region VII County Superintendents

- Mayor Alan Autry and co-chair Fritz Grupe called the meeting to order and gave brief overviews of San Joaquin Valley Partnership and goals for the K-12 workgroup.
- **Statewide education agenda** – Secretary Bersin addressed the group to talk about the statewide education agenda. Key highlights of that discussion were:
 1. The challenges of funding K-12 education and the lack of funds available in the immediate future.
 2. School accountability programs, in particular the API and NCLB. Secretary Bersin spoke to the need to align the two accountability programs to provide consistency to K-12 educators and eliminate confusion among school leaders. He also spoke to California's success in getting permission from the federal government to devise a new metric that would harmonize AYP and API, and that a group of psychometricians are working on that task now.
 3. The need to improve teaching at all levels, find creative and effective ways to create new teachers, attract teachers from out of state, and retain the quality teachers that we have in our classrooms.

Role of County Superintendents – Secretary Bersin then addressed the county superintendents to talk about a role they could play under a proposed unified framework for intervention. The framework will distinguish between failing schools and schools that are not progressing fast enough.

- Secretary Bersin and the county superintendents engaged in a robust discussion that led to the following points of agreement for further action:
 - **Early Childhood Education** – The workgroup agreed to look for ways to implement preschool, full day kindergarten, making kindergarten mandatory, and moving the kindergarten age up to five years old by Sept.
 - **Improve the Quality of Teaching** – Poor students need good teaching more than middle and upper class students.
 - School must look for continued professional development.
 - Teacher assignment is an issue that should also be addressed as the best teachers are rarely in the schools where they are most needed.
 - School cultures must change and districts/state must offer incentives to recruit and retain better teachers to needy schools.

The workgroup agreed that the Central Valley Partnership could be the flagship region for these reforms.

- Mayor Autry, Mr. Grupe, and Secretary Bersin all thanked the superintendents for participating in the workgroup meeting and outlined next steps for the K-12 work group and the county superintendents.
- **County Superintendents Outreach** – County superintendents will begin outreach efforts with local districts to talk about early childhood education and teacher quality initiatives.
- **Proposal Development** – Secretary Bersin assigned Tony Kline of the Secretary's Office to serve as the point person for developing a proposal for the central valley counties that implement:
 - Increased preschool opportunities
 - Full day kindergarten
 - Solidify the starting age (as of Sept. 1st) for kindergarten to five years old in conjunction with preschool efforts.

December 8 Meeting

Attendees

Mayor Alan Autry

Fritz Grupe

Connie Conway

Bob Vizzolini, Stanislaus County Office of Education

Bill Bassett, Alliance Economic Development & Workforce Development

- Introductions & discussion of previous meeting with the Region VII County Superintendents.
- **Alternative Accountability Model** – Alternative governance model being proposed in Fresno County to pilot new strategies in localizing accountability in fiscal management, student achievement and administrative efficiencies.
 - A governance model that would transfer authority currently held at the State level to the County Superintendent of Schools.
 - Groundwork for proposal has been laid in Fresno County
 - Possibility of the SJV Partnership supporting this test case, setting a precedent and option for the other San Joaquin Valley counties to pursue.
 - This model will support the implementation of program options for those schools designated for Program Improvement such as supplemental educational services (tutoring), school choice and charter school options and support.
- **Vocational Education** (Career Technical Education)
 - Reinforcing the importance of completing high school
 - Aligning the standards in career education courses and high school ROP courses with the State approved standards providing more options for graduating students.
 - Support for charter schools providing an increased vocational focus
 - Design science high schools partnering with community colleges to provide simultaneous completion of high school degree and career technical certificates.
- **Schools as Community Centers for their Neighborhoods** – Community resources providing increased student & family support at the schools.
 - Homework Support – Increased homework support services for students after school especially for immigrant families whose parents are unable to provide homework assistance.
 - Community & Faith Based Resources – Community and faith based organizations utilizing the school facility to offer services to the neighborhood.

- Blended Services – Blended services from community organization provided to the neighborhood at the schools

- **Innovative Solutions Supporting Services for Immigrant Families**

- Transportation Challenges – Transportation in rural areas and for immigrant families limit family access to needed educational and family services.
- Supplemental Education Services – Much needed tutoring services for immigrant families are difficult to administer due to busing schedules and lack of transportation by families to and from school.
- An increased coordination of busing resources from city / schools and district to district.